

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Paragraphs [0046], [0050], and [0051] have been amended.

Claim 26 is sought to be added. Claims 1 and 15 are sought to be amended. Upon entering the amendment, Claims 1, 3, 8-13, 15, and 26 are pending in the application, with 1 and 26 being the independent claims. Claims 2, 4-7, 14, and 16-21 are noted as being withdrawn from consideration as being directed to non-elected invention.

No new matter has been entered by any amendments shown above.

Based on the above amendments and following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Objection to the Figures

The figures were objected to under 37 C.F.R. 1.83(a), where the Examiner alleges the subject matter in claim 12 was not shown in the Figures. Applicants respectfully disagree. For example, in paragraphs [0047] and [0048] of the instant specification, non-planar first portion 310, as depicted in Figure 3, is generally discussed as being a surface having one of many shapes, where specifically in paragraph [0048] a spherical shape is discussed as being one example shape non-planar first portion 310 has in Figure 3. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the objection.

Objection to the Claims

Claims 1, 3, 8-13, and 15 were objected to by the Examiner because of an typographical error in claim 1. In view of the amendments shown above, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the objections.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and 103(a)

Claims 1, 3, 11, 13, and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,925,300 to Rachlin (“Rachlin”). Claims 8-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rachlin in view of text found at page 9 of the instant application.

Claims 1, 9-11 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 2,146,662 to Van Albada (“Van Albada”). Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Van Albada in view of text found at page 9 of the instant application. Applicants traverse all these rejections.

Claim 1 recites at least a non-planar first portion that surrounds and is symmetrical around an axis of symmetry of the prism. Both Rachlin and Van Albada teach prisms having concave sections. Thus, neither Rachlin or Van Albada teach or suggest at least these features of claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claim 1. Also, at least based on their dependency to claim 1, claims 3, 8-13, and 15 should be found allowable over the applied patents. Further, because claim 1 is now an allowed linking claim, claims 2, 4-7, 14, and 16-21 should be brought back in the application and be found allowable over the applied patents.

New Claim 26

None of the applied references teach of at least a prism comprising a non-planar first portion that is symmetrical about an axis of symmetry of the prism and has one of a quasi-triangular or parallelogram cross-sectional shape in a plane including the axis of symmetry. This is shown, for example, in Figures 3, 4, 6-9, and 14 of the instant application. A quasi-triangular shape can be defined, for example, as a triangle missing an apex. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to find claim 26 allowable.

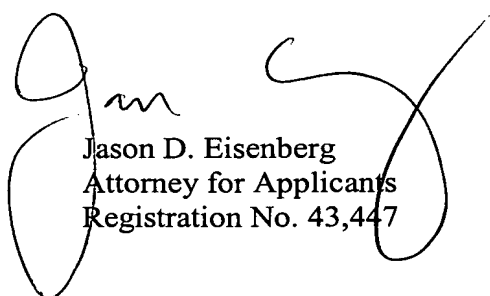
Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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